

THE CONCISE HISTORY ST. JUDE THADDEUS' PRIMARY SCHOOL INOMA, (UDAMA PRIMARY SCHOOL, INOMA)

St. Jude Thaddeus' Primary School was formally and official established in 1945 by the early Roman Catholic Missionaries. Meanwhile, it could be recalled that the available information indicated that the early Roman Catholic Missionaries set the feet in Inoma Akato about 1934 and continued their evangelization missionary activities for over long period of time. The local population of Inoma Akato people welcomed them whole heartedly. Thus, Inoma community were highly hospitable such that they, not only welcomed the early missionaries, they also embraced Christianity to some extent then. Consequently, most elders and parents allowed their wives and children to follow the white men's religion- Christianity and civilization-education. To this effect therefore, the early Roman Catholic Missionaries clearly saw education as the pivot on which every development and civilization revolve. Equally, they regarded education as an important and necessary tool for effective evangelization of indigenous population and entire natives of Inoma Akato and beyond. The first and foremost, step to this education projects was acquisition of sizable plots of land and erection of classroom blocks as well as other structure/infrastructures. Hence, they council of elders of Inoma was approached by the Roman Catholic Missionaries for the singular purpose of acquiring some plots of land for the school project.

Consequently, the Inoma council of elders met with one Mr. Ugwabeje and asked him to donate some piece of his land. The land, as it were, was at strategic position at equidistant of Inoma community and has moderate elevated upland. Mr. Ugwabeje, having love for education and also for the interest of children at heart, kindly and freely donated the afro- mentioned piece of land for the purpose of the school building project.

Furthermore, in 1945 the Roman Catholic Mission, with direct labour and supports of Inoma council of elders and indeed the whole community men and women of Inoma population built a primary school and named it St. Jude Thaddeus Primary School after the name of the Roman Catholic Church in Inoma. The missionaries established the school to be a solid foundation and bedrock through which the future generation of Inoma would be brought up to stand firm to shoulder the progress and development of their community as well as to effectively and practically assist the white missionaries in the tedious work of evangelization in Olumbanasaa and entire region.

Meanwhile, as time went on, the number of pupils in St. Jude Thaddeus Primary School continued to increase tremendously and attracted children from within and outside the community thanks to the frantic and sincere efforts and commitments of the missionaries. The missionaries employed teachers and paid them their wages promptly. This singular gestures helped to boast the morale and inputs as well as the commitment of the teachers. Thus, the School grew

numerically and qualitatively in every aspect and respect from strength to strength up to 1950. It could be recalled that some of the pioneer students in St. Jude Thaddeus' Primary School included the following: Onyekwe Ateli, Chife Anizor, Hycinth Nwaze, Mmadunaeme Effelor, Christopher Anikwe Okwute among others.

Unfortunately, in 1950, the normal academic activities were disrupted due to small pox epidemic which struck Inoma community and environs. This small pox outbreak claimed the lives of head teacher then and few teachers as well as some lives of the school children. Equally, many lives of the community were lost to the epidemic as well. When the victims of the small pox were on the alarming increase, St. Jude Thaddeus' Primary School were closed indefinitely and most people deserted the community while very many were quarantined for adequate and proper medical attention and treatment. The community battled with the small pox epidemic for a period of four years before it was finally controlled.

In 1954, the school was renovated and re-opened for normal school and academic activities. However, the population dropped a bit due to the number of those the epidemic claimed but most importantly the population dropped due to the fear inflicted on the people about coming together under one roof. Fortunately, with time, the fear was dispelled and everything returned to normalcy. Meanwhile, on the part of lack of qualified and government paid teacher, the School Management made use of the community paid teachers to bring their children back to school.

In 1955, St. Jude Thaddeus Primary School became a full fledged school with Mr. Joseph Chukwurah as the head teacher. Through the tireless efforts and doggedness of Mr. Chukwurah, the School boomed with promising population such that one school building could not accommodate the pupils. In 1956, the missionaries, with the help of Mr. Cletus Igwilo from Nzam, went to Mr. Anijah Enemakwu for another piece of land to build another school as an extension to accommodate the teeming population. When the land was donated, another school building was erected as extension to accommodate the school children. St. Jude's Primary School, Inoma continued booming till 1967 when the Nigerian/Biafran War started. The War led to devastation of many schools in the Biafran side including St. Jude Thaddeus' Catholic School, Inoma. When the War ended in January 1970, many schools were the shadow of its self (in skeletal form). The normal school academic activities began reluctantly due to dilapidated infrastructure and low morale all of which were as a result of three years War.

In 1973, the Federal government policy on education in the old Eastern Nigeria region led to government take over of all the schools in the old Eastern region Nigeria; which included school owned by Missions/Churches and the ones owned by private individuals. However, when government took over St. Jude Thaddeus' Catholic Primary School, it changed the School's name to

Udama Primary School Inoma Akato. “Udama” is Igala word for ‘Unity’. The word unity was chosen to accommodate the interests of allied and emerging autonomous communities within and around Inoma especially Owelle and Ukwalla communities, with which the Inoma community was added the suffix- ‘Akato’. Inoma Akato referring to Inoma itself, Owelle and Ukwalla. Thus, Udama Primary School Inoma Akato could as well be called Unity Primary School Inoma Akato.

Note: The government take over of schools has serious negative impacts and adverse effects on the society for it fastly led to moral decadence, dwindling quality of education and general breakdown of law and order in the society.

Moreover, Udama Primary School, Inoma Akato (St. Jude Thaddeus’ Primary School, Inoma Akato) started growing again as government took over the management of all schools. It is worthy of note that between 1978 to 1983, when Rev. FR. Dr. Hirary Anisiobi was the Parish Priest of St. Mary’s catholic Church Nzam, He, Fr. Anisiobi made series of sincere efforts and commitment towards rebuilding St. Jude’s Primary School Inoma Akato. He expanded and extended classroom blocks to accommodate the teaming population after the War. May God graciously bless him here on earth and hereafter in heaven.

(Note: By the time Fr. Anisiobi was the Parish Priest of Nzam, Inoma Akato was under St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Nzam. Inoma became a Parish of its own in 2006/2007). The School continued growing from strength to strength until 2011 when Mr. Peter Obi, the executive governor Anambra State handed over the schools took over in 1973 in Anambra State to their former and original owners, after 38 solid year of confiscation of those Schools by government. However, it is note- worthy that all these Returned Schools are being managed by government in collaboration with their owners: Catholic and Anglican Missions in Anambra State. The government still pays the teachers their salaries and other entitlements whereas the Missions play active roll in management and other related matters in order to foster discipline and promote moral rectitude and academic excellence among the students. It is also worthy of note that Peter Obi release large and substantial sum of funds, running in hundreds of Millions Naira towards the renovation of all those Returned Schools and the rest of other schools in the State. Also the executive governor, Mr. Peter Obi equally release huge sum of money for provision of other infrastructures and teaching aids to the schools which included classroom chairs, tables, portable water supply, laboratory equipment, game facilities, other teaching aids and incentives to school teachers and students. May God graciously bless and reward Mr. Peter Obi in a tremendous manner for his doggedness and giant strifes in education as well as other sectors of economic and social developments in Anambra State.

Finally, the major additional new innovation to St. Jude Thaddeus’ Primary School (Udama Primary School) Inoma since its inception in 1945 was the introduction of EARLY CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION (ECCDE) (Kindergarten department) that is the Nursery section to the School

curriculum in 2013. Since then, it has trained and graduated three sets of pupils to the glory of God. The Nursery section was introduced by Lady Kate Ndiogulu, the incumbent head teacher of the School. Since Lady Kate Ndiogulu became the head teacher of the school, a lot of good things, innovations, sanity development and progress have taken place. The sets of marching school band and the band uniform were her brainchild. Equally, with the sets of marching band and uniform, the school has won trophies for two consecutive times during the October 1 Independence Day Celebrations and May 27 Children's Day Celebrations conducted yearly at Anambra West L.G.A Headquarters at Nzam. May God bless and reward her immensely and grant her, her heart's desires.

Lastly, the School is still growing numerically, structurally and academically. The three Parish Priests who have piloted the affairs of St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church, Inoma have been of good and immense supports to the school.

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| 1. Rev. Fr. GMP Okoye | 2007-2011 |
| 2. Rev. Fr. Augustine Orakwue | 2011-2015 |
| 3. Rev. Fr. Charles Ebele | 2015 till date |

Succession of Head Teachers from 1955 till date

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| 1. Joseph Chukwurah (Mr) | 1955-1956 |
| 2. George Ochonogo (Mr) | 1956- 1958 |
| 3. Donatus Igweadiani (Mr) | 1958-1963 |
| 4. Francis Agbata (Mr) | 1963-1979 |
| 5. Christopher Amutaigwe (Mr) | 1979-1984 |
| 6. Simeon Igwealor (Mr) | 1984-1990 |
| 7. Gabriel Ugbara (of Inoma) (Mr) | 1990-1996 |
| 8. Augustine Ikecheli (Mr) | 1996-1997 |
| 9. John Onyekwe (Mr) | 1997-2003 |
| 10. Victoria Ameke (Mrs) (of Inoma) | 2003-2013 |
| 11. Kate Ndiogulu (Mrs) | 2013 till date |

The present set of teachers in the school includes the following:

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| Moses Edoja | Primary 1 |
| Moses Ojadi | Primary 11 |
| Joel Atta | Primary 111 |
| Paul Anagbe | Primary IV |
| Augustine Anakwe | Primary VI & V |
| Theresa Imoka | Nursery 1 & 2 |
| Grace Nebolisa | Nursery 3 |
| ❖ Lady Kate Ndiogulu | Head Teacher |

St. Jude Thaddeus Nursery and Primary school, Inoma has six (6) government paid staff teachers and two (2) PTA paid teachers, both of them are for Nursery section.

**Thanks, compiled by;
Lady Kate Ndiogulu
Incumbent Head teacher
St. Jude Thaddeus'
Primary School, Inoma.**

**Engr. Ezinna Peter Okwute
Vice Chairman
St. Jude Thaddeus'
Catholic Church,
Inoma.**

**Mr. Gabriel Ugbaja
Former Head Teacher (1990-1996)**

**Edited by;
Rev. Fr. Charles Ebele
Parish Priest,
St. Jude Thaddeus' Catholic
Church, Inoma Oct; 2015 till date.**